



WINTER/SPRING 2017

INSIDE

Community rallies after fire



Fighting racism
Page 4



Grants for arts programs
Page 5



Neighborhood match grants
Page 7



By Brad Harwood, Acting Strategic Communications Advisor

An overflow crowd of 500 people from around the region packed Sammamish High School's auditorium on Sunday, Jan. 15 in a show of support for Bellevue's Muslim community. The scene provided a stark contrast to the devastating flames engulfing a mosque that greeted Bellevue firefighters and police less than 48 hours before.

At 2:44 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, police responded to a fire reported at 14700 Main St., the location of the Islamic Center of Eastside. Despite Bellevue Fire's quick response and extinguishment, the building was badly damaged. Firefighters were able to save precious documents, books and keepsakes. More important, due to the early hour, the mosque was empty and no one was injured.

The rallying cry from the community was loud and swift. In addition to the meeting, neighbors, well-wishers and members of multiple faith communities were on-site by daybreak, offering condolences. They were also eager to help. Various organizations even offered space to host daily prayer gatherings.

"We are overwhelmed and can never be grateful enough for all the support we are getting from the

community around us," said the center's leader, Imam Faizel Hassan, at a media briefing.

Police and prosecutors later indicated the incident did not appear to be a hate crime. The suspect was immediately arrested at the scene and subsequently charged with arson. He had been in previous contact with the mosque community for years.

The aftermath of the fire highlights the Bellevue Police's ongoing focus on creating strong ties with the community. To build lasting, collaborative relationships based on mutual understanding and trust, Police Chief Steve Mylett has created a number of advisory councils in recent years, including a Muslim advisory board. Additional organized gatherings have provided opportunities to get direct feedback from Muslim residents.

The mosque says it will rebuild. Members started a fundraising drive on the center's website, www.eastsidemosque.com.

"The community's reaction to this incident has been inspiring," said Mayor John Stokes. "It shows what our city represents and that we welcome the world."

Dialogue continues on men's shelter location

By Mike McCormick Huentelman

Homelessness has been a frequent topic of conversation in Bellevue and in the region. In Bellevue, the number of people experiencing homelessness has been steadily increasing over the past several years.

In 2016, the Bellevue community responded in a number of ways. The city increased funding for a street outreach worker to help direct men, women and families living outside or in cars to local shelter, housing and

continued on page 4



City of Bellevue
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

PRSTD STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bellevue, WA
Permit NO. 61

ECRWSS-C

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

Council Corner

Re-Investing in Bellevue: 21st Century Neighborhoods



By Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak

The Bellevue City Council likes to “think big.” And out of that comes some concepts typically unheard of for a city our size: a 20-year vision; the “Grand Connection” across I-405; Meydenbauer Bay Park; and the Diversity Advantage Plan.

But it’s also important to “think small.” So often, it is the little things that make each neighborhood in Bellevue special.

Thank you to Bellevue taxpayers for approving the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion levy on the ballot in November. Combined with the fire station levy, it’s the largest re-investment in neighborhoods in city history. This levy provides a little over \$7 million a year for projects that will make our neighborhoods better and safer places to live. And it comes at a time when our neighborhoods are feeling the effects of aging.

The council is committed to getting neighborhood projects underway this year, and will soon adopt a work plan for the 2017-2018 time frame. We want to put your investment to work right away.

For me the question is “How do we take the suburban neighborhoods built in the style of the 1950s and ‘60s and connect them to the needs of the 21st century?”

I break the projects into three distinct categories: personal transit and safety, intelligent neighborhoods and neighborhood congestion relief.

Personal Transit and Safety: The bulk of these projects will provide safe ways for you and your family to get around your neighborhoods. We will complete Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation projects, connect sidewalks with our schools, make safer crossing on our streets, and connect our trails from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Intelligent Neighborhoods: These projects will also increase safety through better lighting, smart tools to decrease travel times and the ability to partner with the local firms working on new technologies and smarter ways to move vehicles through cities. Think of these projects as increasing mobility without pouring more concrete.

Neighborhood Congestion Relief: Across the city, we know people

find it difficult to get into and out of neighborhoods. Levy money will be used for project design, so we can get to construction of these projects sooner than currently planned. Our staff says the first pinch point to address is in



Neighborhood sidewalk projects like this one will be funded by the levy.

the Eastgate area at 150th Avenue Southeast and Southeast Newport Way.

The fire facilities levy is also an important part of modernizing our neighborhoods and making them safer. Fire stations are assets to neighborhoods, and almost every station needs an upgrade, a significant remodel or complete reconstruction. The levy also provides the funds to build Fire Station 10, a new station needed to improve response times in downtown, Northwest Bellevue and the BelRed area. Property acquisition is already underway but the next challenge for the council is determining how to fund the operation of the station, scheduled to open in 2021.

But it’s a challenge we can meet, as we think both big and small for you.

Council Roundup

By Brad Harwood, Acting Strategic Communications Advisor

Briefing on I-405

The state Department of Transportation on Jan. 23 presented an update to the City Council on Interstate 405 express toll lanes and upcoming improvements. According to the agency, the new lanes have improved reliability and reduced travel times along the busy corridor.

Since launching the new system, WSDOT has made a number of modifications to improve performance, including better signage, extended access points and adjusted toll algorithms. WSDOT staff also walked the council through the Renton-to-Bellevue widening project, which is in the design phase. Construction is estimated to begin in 2019 with a target opening date of sometime in 2024.

After the presentation, councilmembers asked several questions about related projects and urged WSDOT, as per their past policy statement, to continue reinvesting toll revenue into I-405.

On track for \$100 Million transportation loan

The City Council on Jan. 17 OK’d the continued pursuit of a \$100 million, low-interest federal loan to help pay for major transportation projects. Final approval is anticipated in late February, once the council formally adopts a bond ordinance authorizing the loan.

The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan will support the construction of key mobility projects, which fit the council’s two-year priorities regarding transportation plans that address future growth and mobility in the BelRed, Downtown and Wilburton areas.

Projects funded by the loan in BelRed include two sections of Northeast Spring Boulevard, a new east-west street; the expansion of two sections of 124th Avenue Northeast,

between Bel-Red Road and Northup Way; and improvements on 130th Avenue Northeast, from Bel-Red Road to Northup Way.



124th Avenue improvements would be funded by the TIFIA loan.

Bellevue would pay for 66 percent of the projects’ cost and the TIFIA loan would fund the rest. Bellevue’s matching share of the funding already is included the city’s Capital Investment Program budget.

Affordable housing strategy work continues

On Dec. 14, the council received a progress report on the affordable housing strategy project. Staff continues to work closely with a technical advisory group to review a range of potential actions. The ultimate goal is to provide the city with a list of bold actions that will have a measurable impact.

During the discussion, councilmembers recommended outreach to groups such as seniors, students and the startup community, in addition to the general public and other stakeholder groups that have already been identified. Additional comments included the need for a case

study of the successful actions taken to preserve the Highland Village Apartments last summer.

In response to ongoing concerns voiced by residents around the city, the council made developing “an affordable housing plan for the needs of our diverse population” one of its 2016-17 priorities. A complete draft strategy for the council to review is expected in March. Staff will continue to work with a team of consultants and the advisory group to analyze a viable list of actions and strategies. A new round of public engagement will also begin early next year.

Marijuana regulations adopted

On Nov. 9, the council enacted two ordinances concerning permanent marijuana regulations. The ordinances replace interim regulations limiting retail recreational marijuana site locations, banning medical marijuana cooperatives and marijuana research uses, and imposing civil fines and allowing for the abatement of violations of certain provisions of the state medical marijuana laws.

Councilmembers voted 4-3 to adopt Ordinance No. 6316, which amends the Land Use Code to permit no more than one marijuana retailer within specific subareas, allow for two marijuana retailers in BelRed, and allow for an additional retailer in the Medical Institution or BelRed Medical Office-1 districts in the BelRed and Wilburton subareas. It also caps the number of stores in the city at six and sets a requirement for a 100-foot buffer between residential districts.

In addition, the council unanimously voted to adopt Ordinance No. 6317, which permanently amends the city code to impose civil penalties and abatement actions for violations of certain provisions of the Medical Cannabis Act, RCW 69.51A.



2017-2018 budget supports council priorities

By Lenka Wright, Chief Communications Officer

The City Council unanimously adopted a 2017-2018 Operating Budget that funds council priorities such as increasing funding for economic development, “smart cities” technologies, early implementation of the Grand Connection, and completion of Phase 1 of Meydenbauer Park and the Downtown Park circle.

The council adopted the biennial operating budget, along with the 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program budget, on Dec. 5. The \$1.5 billion budget is balanced and maintains current service levels in city operations, while focusing on implementing the City Council Vision Priorities.

“This budget establishes a solid base for where Bellevue is going in the future,” noted Mayor John Stokes. “We have many exciting projects ahead, including the Eastside Rail Corridor and the Grand Connection, as well as work on challenging ones including siting a permanent men’s shelter and creating more affordable housing.

“Through the collaborative work of my council colleagues and the professionalism of city staff under City Manager Brad Miyake’s

leadership, we are moving forward on our vision of Bellevue as ‘the city where you want to be.’”

The budgets include two-year appropriations for operations (\$1.035 billion), special purposes (\$65 million) and capital investments (\$413 million).

Highlights of the budget include:

- Grows the city’s reserves to prepare for anticipated shortfalls in future years and in case of an economic downturn;
- Allocates \$3.5 million towards affordable housing;
- Adjusts Development Services rates to account for inflation and staffing costs, and increases utility rates by 4 percent to address aging infrastructure and wholesale costs; and
- Makes continued progress in meeting many of the city’s infrastructure priorities, including maintaining the costs of existing infrastructure, parks levy projects, transportation and mobility improvements, and neighborhood projects.

The council also allocated funds for

several projects and programs, including a multicultural feasibility study; Eastside Pathways partnership; restoration of five highest priority park restrooms at Chism Beach, Clyde Beach, Enatai Beach, Larsen Lake and Spiritridge Parks; TechHire Initiative; and advanced transportation technology investments.

The community was involved in the budget process through the biennial budget, annual performance and business surveys, public meetings and direct communications. In developing the budget, the city used the “Budget One” process that puts emphasis on community outcomes to help determine funding levels.

Bellevue continues to have one of the lowest tax rates among other Washington cities with a population of 20,000 or more. When including the parks levy (approved by Bellevue voters in 2008) along with the levies for fire facilities and neighborhood transportation projects (approved by Bellevue voters in November), the city’s property tax rate is \$1.14 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Bellevue and partners win economic development award



Mayor Stokes accepts the award with neighboring city leaders.

Bellevue and its Eastside neighbors Kirkland and Redmond were recognized by the Economic Development Council of Seattle & King County in January with the Economic Development Champion Award for their joint initiative known as the “Innovation Triangle.”

The partnership, launched in June, seeks to promote the Eastside region as a great place for international companies to do business and grow jobs. Using the Innovation Triangle as a platform, the cities hope to “change the world through technology.”

When accepting the award, Mayor John Stokes noted the value of leveraging resources through collaboration: “We have a common focus on growing our technology clusters, establishing ourselves as a global hub for innovation, and promoting international trade.”

All three cities can point to a track record of success attracting cutting-edge companies. Concur, Bungie, Valve and T-Mobile all have headquarters in Bellevue, with the University of Washington’s Global Innovation Exchange set to open in BelRed soon. Microsoft, Nintendo, AT&T Mobility and Aerojet/Rocketdyne all have significant operations in Redmond, while IBM, Google, WB Games and Inrix all have offices in Kirkland.

According to the Innovation Triangle website, the area’s economic output in 2013 was nearly \$48 billion, making it one of the most dynamic regional economies in the United States, larger than that of Durham, N.C., Boulder, Colo., and Charleston, N.C. Approximately 25 percent of Washington’s exports are technology products from the Innovation Triangle.

Learn more about the program by visiting: innovationtriangle.us.

Speaker series on communication, race and diversity

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach

As residents experience cultural changes in their neighborhoods and navigate a changing political climate, it has become vital to acquire skills to successfully communicate and interact with those who may be very different from us. Each year, the Better Together series provides educational tools for residents to practice as they interact in their neighborhoods, their workplaces and the larger community.

This spring, the King County Library System and the City of Bellevue will present a three-part series exploring civil disagreement, cross-cultural communications, and diversity and race. All three events will be 6:30 p.m., in the council chamber at City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, with facilitated discussions following each presentation.



David E. Smith

Civil Disagreement – March 29

In our increasingly polarized political environment, how can we have civil discussions with those with whom we have profound disagreements? David E. Smith of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Washington will teach ways to have meaningful, civil conversations with others by building bridges between ourselves and those with whom we disagree. The Newport Way Library Association is sponsoring this event.

Exploring Cross-Cultural Communications – April 26

How do we feel a sense of community when we all come from different places and have different cultural norms? Explore the skills required to effectively communicate and create connections across culture and in our neighborhoods. Focus on direct and indirect communication styles and cultural cues that impact our day-to-day conversations with colleagues and neighbors. Marcia McReynolds of the city’s mediation program and Spring Cheng of Resonance Path will guide you through interactive and introspective exercises to begin to see your communications in a new way.

Under Our Skin: What Do We Mean When We Talk About Race? – May 31

Explore The Seattle Times “Under Our Skin” video project around race and inclusiveness. Video and discussion will inspire you to think and talk about issues of race in a deeper way. For those who freeze up at the prospect of talking about race, this will help break the ice. For those who tend to take sides right away when the issue of race comes up, Under Our Skin will challenge your assumptions and build common ground.

Space is limited and there is no charge to attend. Participants may attend individual programs. Recommended for age 16 and above, and no child care is available. Registration required by contacting neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.

Self-awareness: key to fighting racism



Robin DiAngelo speaks to a packed council chamber.

By Claude Iosso, Digital Communications Coordinator

With its “Diversity Advantage” initiative, the City of Bellevue has taken on a tall task, finding ways to ensure equitable services for an increasingly diverse population among the challenges.

“We all need to learn how to talk about race and our fears, our frustrations and our hopes,” observed Helena Stephens, Family, Youth and Teen Services manager, identifying one of the challenges during an event honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. last month.

To help staff and residents, a lecturer from the University of Washington came to City Hall on Jan. 12 to tackle the tricky topic of white people’s place in American society. A crowd of more than 200 people, which spilled outside the council chamber, was receptive to Robin DiAngelo’s presentation, “Seeing the Water, Whiteness in Daily Life.”

DiAngelo presented substantial evidence that despite advances since the Civil Rights era, racial inequality is still all around us. Many white people, despite good intentions, can be part of the problem, DiAngelo said. They can also be part of the solution.

In a low-key lecture, sprinkled with humor and compelling images, DiAngelo methodically argued that:

- All humans have prejudice toward other social groups.
- The message that it is bad to be prejudiced makes it difficult for people to ever acknowledge it in themselves.
- It’s impossible to avoid having prejudices, but self-awareness can help illuminate when we act upon them by discriminating, which can include excluding, ridiculing, avoiding, favoring or segregating.

To support her contention that white

people’s collective, unacknowledged racism results in inequity, DiAngelo flashed a series of photo galleries of Congress members, movie and TV producers, Fortune 500 CEOs and Ivy League college presidents, the vast majority of them white. DiAngelo also asserted that, in popular magazines, mainstream religion and television shows, the faces are mostly white.

“Perhaps the most profound way that my life has been shaped by my race is that I could be born, I could play, I could worship, I could study, I could love, I could work and I could die in racial segregation, and not one single person who’s ever loved me or mentored me has ever conveyed to me that I’ve lost anything,” DiAngelo said. “Who’s really in your life, at your kitchen table ... and I don’t mean setting it?”

DiAngelo’s books and her website (www.robindiangelo.com) offer details and resources about unconscious racial bias and how to fight it.

“I’m not an avowed racist,” she said. “I am working really hard for the rest of my life to push against that.”

If we acknowledge our own frame of reference, we’ll be less likely to blame the victim the next time a person of color complains of discrimination, DiAngelo said. She also exhorted the audience to stop pretending there’s no racism and rock the status quo.

The crowd in the council chamber appeared to appreciate the author’s perspective, clapping long and heartily at the conclusion of her presentation. As one attendee noted about awareness, race and white identity, “we can’t afford the luxury of silence and to let fearfulness keep us from working toward reconciliation, solidarity and understanding.”

You can see DiAngelo’s entire presentation at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEws7PDenhk.

City workforce becomes even more diverse

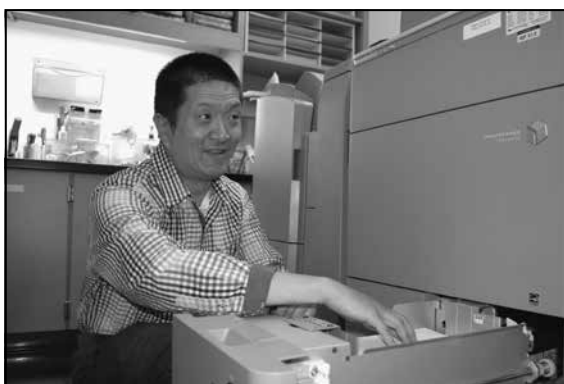
By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer

Diversity comes in all shapes, sizes, colors and creeds. While the city has long made an effort to recruit and hire a diverse workforce, in October the city hired its first employee under a partnership with Puget Sound Personnel, which helps people with disabilities lead self-directed lives.

Joe Tang brings a single-minded enthusiasm to his job in the Transportation Department, and that enthusiasm is infectious. Whether delivering mail or providing running commentary at a holiday white elephant party for staff, he offers a fresh perspective to the workplace routine.

“I love my new job,” said Tang. Along with mail deliveries, his work includes data entry, clerical assistance and maintaining kitchens and conference rooms.

“Diversity wears a lot of hats,” said Ron Kessack, assistant director in Transportation. “This is a different view of diversity than I had considered. It’s a social justice and equity opportunity for a supported employee such as



Transportation Department’s Joe Tang

Joe to have a meaningful job, to contribute to an organization like ours.

“Joe can’t do what engineers do but he can do a lot to support those engineers,” Kessack continued. “If you look for opportunities as opposed to limitations, I think the opportunities are there. Then you start recognizing the benefits.”

The supported employment effort includes an employee task force that worked with the city’s Human Resources Department and Puget Sound Personnel to establish the program. “As a parent of a child with special needs, this is a proud moment for me to see that the City of

Bellevue is embracing supported employment,” said

Linda Glas, a task force member and Transportation project manager.

“Joe is excited to be here,” Glas added. “He shows enthusiasm from the moment he arrives to the moment he leaves. He genuinely loves his job and it’s great the city gave him this opportunity.”

shelter continued

service programs. Many Bellevue faith communities continued to open their facilities to host temporary shelters. The City Council added \$173,000 to its 2017-18 budget to assist local nonprofit service agencies providing help and support to individuals experiencing homelessness.

In August and again in November, the council discussed its set priority for establishing a permanent location for a shelter to serve men who are homeless. In collaboration with King County, a proposed site is being studied at 14350 Eastgate Way, next to the Eastgate Public Health Center and the Eastgate Park and Ride.

The city continues to study this site in 2017 and is welcoming information and input from residents. The council is set to receive a third update regarding the project this quarter.

There has been a robust community outreach regarding the men’s shelter since August, with staff organizing a number of stakeholder briefings and two well-attended community meetings.

Residents have voiced support of this location, citing the proximity to transit and coordination of social services, and confidence in the track record of Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing as competent local service providers.

Other residents have voiced opposition to this location, expressing concerns about shelter operations, crime and safety, potential impact on surrounding property values, and proximity to nearby schools, Bellevue College and residential homes.

Since 2008, the city has partnered with Congregations for the Homeless to offer shelters to those in need. The men’s winter shelter has been located at interim locations in several neighborhoods over the years. Because of the instability created by frequent moves and the increasing community demand, the council made locating a permanent facility one of its 2016 priorities.

More information on Bellevue’s approach to ending homelessness, in addition to background on the proposed men’s shelter and supportive housing project, is available at www.bellevuewa.gov/homelessness.htm. Contact information for staff involved with the project is on the page.



City offers grants to arts organizations

By Joshua Heim, Arts Program Manager

Each year the city ensures residents and visitors have access to creative opportunities close to home by giving grants to area artists and arts organizations. The 33 grantees for this year will provide more than 60,000 free or reduced-priced tickets to arts and cultural programs and over 1,500 scholarships to students in need.

Recognizing the value the arts bring to our quality of life, the education and development of our children, the vitality of our businesses and our sense

of connectedness to the community, the city provides funding through two programs.

Established arts and cultural nonprofits are eligible for Eastside Arts Partnerships funding.

The 16 Eastside Arts Partnerships grantees this year include: Acoustic Sound, which produces the Wintergrass Music Festival, the Bellevue Arts Museum and the Bellevue Downtown Association, which produces both the Jazz and Blues Festival and Live at Lunch. Five new partners were added this year, including the Seattle International Film Festival, which will screen over 40 movies at Lincoln Square Cinemas this spring, and the Anindo Chatterjee Institute of Tabla, which provides Indian tabla drumming classes and performances.

Special Projects grants go to innovative projects by artists and art groups that fill in cultural gaps and inspire new forms of creative participation, particularly for underserved communities.

Special Projects money goes to 18 organizations this year, including: the Ballard Civic Orchestra, which will present Mexican traditional music at February and March concerts at the Highland Community Center; the North American Maple Culture Center, which will present a drama about Chinese women emigrating to America at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center on March 28; and StoneDance Productions, which sponsors a contemporary dance festival in February.

Grant funding is administered by the city's arts program. The Arts Commission makes funding recommendations. The City Council approves grants. The arts program is seeking volunteers familiar with dance, film, music, theater and the visual arts to attend grant-funded programs and performances, and write site-reviews for the commission. For a full list of grantees and information on how to get involved in the arts, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_program.htm.



Young dance students meet a dancer from the Pacific Northwest Ballet, which receives Bellevue funding.

Voter-approved levy projects teed up for 2017

By David Grant, Transportation Public Information Officer, and Lt. Ryan Armstrong, Fire Public Information Officer

Bellevue voters had their say in November, approving two local ballot measures, a 20-year levy to improve fire facilities across the city, and a separate 20-year transportation levy to address neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion. Now it's time to turn marks on the ballot into projects on the ground.

The City Council was poised to allocate levy funds for the next two years by amending the city's Capital Investment Program budget. Once that happens, work will begin this spring on the first projects, as agreed upon by the council in collaboration with city staff. In future years, the council will approve levy projects through the regular biennial budget process for the CIP.

To review, 58 percent of Bellevue voters passed the Fire Facilities measure (Proposition 1), and 54 percent of voters approved the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion measure (Proposition 2). The Fire Facilities property tax levy will raise \$120 million over 20 years (12.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value), or \$6 million per year; the transportation levy will raise \$140 million over 20 years (15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value), or \$7 million per year.

Fire Facilities levy revenue will be used for construction of a new fire station to serve downtown and the surrounding area, seismic retrofits at all nine fire stations, warehouse space

to store and repair special equipment, and the remodeling or expansion of existing stations.

Revenue from the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion levy will be used to reduce a backlog of work that includes: projects to reduce neighborhood congestion, neighborhood safety projects, new sidewalks and trails, technology for safety and traffic management, enhanced maintenance and new bike facilities.

Specific Transportation levy projects and Fire Facilities levy projects that will be undertaken first will be announced in the coming weeks after the council approves amendments to the CIP budget.

Businesses can get rebates, free assistance for employee transit passes

By Kate Johnson, Transportation Planner

A new rebate program offered by the city helps Bellevue employers and property managers tackle congestion and transportation issues related to employee commutes. The ORCA Business Passport streamlines and simplifies transit subsidies for businesses so they can provide transportation benefits, such as bus passes, to more employees.

Making transit more affordable can boost employee recruiting and retention.

The city is offering employers and property managers who sign up for the ORCA Business Passport rebates of \$50 per pass in the first year and \$100 per pass in the second year. Rebates are available for up to 100 passes per Bellevue worksite, while supplies last.

The rebates are offered through the city's Choose Your Way Bellevue program, in collaboration with the state Department of Transportation, King County Metro and the Bellevue Downtown Association/TransManage.

The ORCA Passport can bring many benefits to the worksite:

- **Business benefits:** Passport supports businesses' bottom lines through payroll tax deductions, a boost in employee recruiting and retention, and a streamlined management system that requires minimal administrative support,
- **Employee benefits:** A universal ORCA pass reduces transportation costs and stress for employees during their commute. Providing

alternatives to driving alone gives employees the flexibility to explore new ways to get to work; and

- **Social benefits:** The Passport program supports business sustainability goals by mitigating congestion, reducing air pollution and improving mobility. As the region grows, Bellevue businesses have an important role in addressing transportation challenges.

Thirty Bellevue businesses already are enrolled in ORCA Passport, and contribute to making Bellevue a great place to live and work. Interested businesses can email info@cywb.org or call 425-990-3097 to learn more and receive free assistance with transportation options for their employees in Bellevue.

For more details, visit www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org/OrcaPassport.

The city's Choose Your Way Bellevue program makes it easier for people to use non-drive-alone modes such as transit, carpooling, vanpooling, walking, biking and telework. Learn more at www.ChooseYourWayBellevue.org.



Utilities help you make smarter choices

By Michael May, Utilities Public Information Officer



Bellevue Utilities is your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility. Our goal is to provide services that sustain and improve your quality of life and keep Bellevue one of the best places to live.

The following tips can help you make choices that keep your community, your local environment and your family healthy.

Free water-saving items just a click away

Bellevue is a member of the Cascade Water Alliance, through which customers can get free conservation items – paying only for shipping and handling. Reduce your water consumption, lower your utility bills and help ensure a reliable water supply for future generations.

A sample order for a little over \$5 in shipping could include all of these items:

- Low-flow showerhead: reduce gallons per

minute and energy demand from your water heater.

- Dye tablets/strips: stop water waste from silent toilet leaks.
- Digital shower timer: attaches to the wall with a suction cup.
- Kitchen faucet aerator: has a 360-degree swivel capability plus reduces water flow.
- Bathroom faucet aerator: reduce water flow but not the performance.

Place orders online at <http://cascadewater.org/free-items.php>. Homeowners only need an account or customer number from their utility bill. Free items are also available to apartment condo owners and managers.

Keep suds out of streams

Car washing season is almost upon us. Did you know that all storm drains in Bellevue lead directly to a stream, lake or wetland? Washing your car at home is a dirty business.

When you wash your car in the street or a parking lot, toxic motor oil, brake pad dust, tire wear and other chemical residues – along with soap – go down storm drains, untreated, into the waterways we swim, fish and play in. Dirty wash water contains oil, solvents, anti-freeze and toxic heavy metals such as zinc, lead and copper. Soap is a significant problem and is harmful to fish and the insects they eat. Even biodegradable soap can kill fish before it degrades.

Instead, take your car to a commercial car wash that reclaims the wash water several times before sending it to the sewer system for treatment.

Everyone can recycle organics!

Whether you live in a home, condo, apartment or have a business – you can participate! Food waste and food-soiled paper make up about 30 percent of a typical household's waste. Are you dumping your food scraps in the garbage or worse, putting them down the garbage disposal in your sink and increasing your risk of a sewage backup?

Fats, oils and grease from cooking can gather in your home's side sewer. When a sewer backup is caused by a side sewer failure, you may be faced with digging up your yard, removing the adjoining sidewalk, and/or opening up the street, potentially costing tens of thousands of dollars. Repairs are NOT typically covered by homeowners insurance.

Avoid this potential disaster with a FREE kitchen composter! Bellevue single-family residents can start recycling food scraps with a free kitchen food waste container by calling your solid waste provider, Republic Services, at 425-646-4762. Keep the mess down by using compostable bags in your container. Get a free sample from King County by taking the Compost More, Waste Less Pledge at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/one-less-bag.asp>. Apartment and condo residents can get their free kitchen food waste container by calling Bellevue Utilities recycling hotline at 425-452-6932.

Don't flush trouble!

Flushing anything but toilet paper can cause massive sewage clogs – causing overflows that might damage property and hurt the environment, including our lakes and streams. Don't believe those ads promoting so-called "flushable" products that can supposedly be safely disposed of in your toilet.

Bellevue Utilities' 36 pump stations are in constant operation – pumping our wastewater to the treatment plant. However, the stations require continual maintenance to free them of paper towels, tissues, wet wipes and other products that should have been put in the trash.

Pump stations throughout the city are located in public spaces, shopping centers and residential areas – and when not treated kindly pose a threat. Please do not flush paper towels, facial tissue, cotton swabs, personal and baby wipes, hair, dental floss, feminine hygiene products or cat litter.

'Chain of survival' saves man's life at Snowflake Lane

By Lt. Ryan Armstrong, Fire Public Information Officer

On Dec. 17, a Silverdale family was walking back to their vehicle after watching Snowflake Lane when a colorful night suddenly turned dark. One of the family members, a 74-year-old man, had sudden chest pain and collapsed to the ground at the corner of 111th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 11th Street.

A family member immediately called 911 and began CPR. Within seconds, a second bystander assisted with CPR.

Police Corporal Casey Hiam and Officer Kealii Akahane arrived on the scene within two minutes, continuing CPR and administering a shock with a defibrillator. Two minutes after that, firefighter/emergency medical technicians and firefighter/paramedics arrived to continue CPR, administer shock therapy and provide advanced life support. They rushed the patient to Overlake Medical Center.

The man made a full recovery, and eight days later he and his family ate Christmas dinner together.

The cardiac arrest survival rate in Bellevue is 58 percent, compared to the national average of 12 percent. Firefighters with excellent training in CPR and other emergency care play a huge role, of course, but a "chain of survival" involving residents is key.

The "chain of survival" is a series of steps including:

- early recognition and call for help;
- early CPR and defibrillation; and
- early advance care.



Police Corporal Casey Hiam gets a mug from Fire Battalion Chief Andy Adolphson for his link in the 'chain of survival'.

The man's recovery in this case is in great part due to the early actions of those bystanders, police officers and firefighters. All the links were necessary for this positive outcome.

Want to be a link in the chain of survival? To sign up for a CPR class, please go to www.bellevuewa.gov/cpr_training.htm.

Zero-interest home repair loans for low-income homeowners

By Christina Faine, Parks & Community Services Public Information Officer

Bellevue homeowners with low to moderate incomes can receive up to \$35,000 in zero-interest loans and grants from Bellevue's Home Repair Program for repairs to roofs, plumbing, furnaces, driveways, electrical wiring, as well as weatherization projects.

These loans don't have to be repaid until the house is sold, and no monthly payment is required.

To be eligible for assistance, you must have owned and lived in the house for which you are requesting assistance for at least a year, the house must be within the Bellevue city limits, you must not have a reverse mortgage and you must meet the program's income requirements.

To determine eligibility, count the number of household members residing in the house

(household size) and check the maximum allowable income on the city website at www.bellevuewa.gov/homerepair_assistance_eligibility.htm.

For more information about Bellevue's Home Repair Program, call the Parks & Community Services Department at 425-452-6884 (TDD: 411).



Results in on Grand Connection art survey

Which locations in Downtown Bellevue are you most interested in seeing new public artworks?



Downtown Park
43%



Pedestrian Corridor
21%



Private Developments
14%

By Bradley Calvert, Community Development Manager

More than 300 people responded to a survey about art and culture that could be incorporated into the Grand Connection corridor through downtown. Staff are analyzing the responses and are planning to release new surveys regarding the Wilburton commercial area, one of the ends of the corridor.

The art survey was intended to better understand the types of art and cultural programming that residents, visitors and those who work in Bellevue would like to see. The results will influence the types of art and cultural programming the city pursues in the future.

The survey asked about visual preferences, to determine types and styles of art that respondents would like to see, in addition to questions related to the strength of existing art and culture in Bellevue, the goals of public art and where respondents would like to see new art installations.

Full results of the survey can be found at www.bellevuegrandconnection.com/art-on-the-grand-connection.

In addition to a survey regarding the Wilburton commercial area's land use and urban design analysis, another survey will be released soon concerning design proposals on the Grand Connection.

The Grand Connection is a non-motorized corridor that will connect Meydenbauer Bay, downtown, the Wilburton commercial area and the Eastside Rail Corridor. It is envisioned as a unique urban experience that will enhance connectivity and mobility in Bellevue.

Councilmember Slatter vacates seat



Vandana Slatter

Councilmember Vandana Slatter on Jan. 9 announced that she would step down to accept an appointment to the state House of Representatives. Immediately following her comments, council colleagues took turns thanking Slatter for her thoughtfulness and collaborative spirit.

A 48th District seat became vacant when State Representative Patty Kuderer was appointed to state senator in the 48th. That seat became available when Cyrus Habib won his race in November for lieutenant governor.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Bellevue," said Slatter. "I am so grateful for this

opportunity to represent the 48th Legislative District and continue advocating for this vibrant, innovative and diverse community. I plan to bring my experience as a city councilmember and unique perspective to address key issues that affect the families and communities in the 48th District."

Slatter was in the second year of her four-year term, having been on the council since January 2016.

The council has 90 days from Jan. 14, the effective date of Slatter's resignation, to fill the vacated Position 5 seat. The council accepted applications for the open seat early this month and aimed to make an appointment by March.

'Bellevue's best kept secret' no more - \$10,000 for small neighborhood projects

By Ying Carlson, Neighborhood Match Coordinator

"This is one of Bellevue's best kept secrets!" a recent Neighborhood Match funds recipient exclaimed. The resident was referring to the fact that the city offers up to \$10,000 and matches neighborhood labor for \$25 per hour to residents willing to roll up their sleeves to improve the community they call home.

Word is getting around. The funds have been increasingly utilized by neighborhoods in recent years. The first deadline for 2017 is March 31. If you think your neighborhood needs some neighborly love and enhancement, now is the time to apply!



Neighbors participate in a Neighborhood Match project.

Created in the 1990s, the Match program has been a great funding source for Bellevue residents who requested small local projects to improve their neighborhood. For every dollar awarded by the city, the applying neighborhood provides an equal or greater match consisting of money, professional services, materials and/or volunteer labor.

Match projects in recent years have included:

- renewing dated neighborhood entry signs;
- removing overgrown vegetation and beautifying medians; and
- adding benches or art pieces to enhance neighborhood corners.

In addition to improving a neighborhood, a Match project can create strong community connections.

People are often amazed at how doing a project together can transform a community. Neighbors start to get to know each other while planting trees or flowers together, or having their kids cleaning up a median. Pretty soon, neighbors are babysitting for each other and doing a summer barbecue together!

Do you have a creative project ideas to make a difference in your neighborhood? City staff will guide you every step of the way to turn your project idea into a reality. Matching funds are limited and applications need to be received (post marked or emailed) by 5 p.m., March 31, to be considered.

For more information about the program, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood_match_requirements.htm or contact me at ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4342.

SchoolPool eases school dropoff woes for parents

By Kate Johnson, Transportation Planner

Tired of sitting in traffic congestion while dropping off your child at school? You can improve your morning experience and ease traffic near school drop-off points by carpooling, walking or biking with neighbors through "Bellevue SchoolPool," a free, secure, online ride-matching system.

The city is piloting SchoolPool this school year at Puesta del Sol Elementary, Somerset Elementary, Stevenson Elementary, Odle Middle, Tye Middle, Newport High, Sammamish High and Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

Parents and guardians can easily find ride matches by entering location and contact information in an online tool visible only to other participants. For more information and to sign up, go to www.BellevueSchoolPool.org.

The program may expand to additional Bellevue schools in the future. If you would like to explore adding your school to the program, contact Kate Johnson at 425-452-7896 or kmjohnson@bellevuewa.gov. However, there is no need to wait for SchoolPool. We encourage all students to carpool, walk, bike or ride the bus to school.

Bellevue SchoolPool is a collaboration between the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue School District, King County Metro and the Bellevue Downtown Association/TransManage.

Out of tragedy, an opportunity

By Gerald M. Hughes, EBCC member

As we all know by now, the Islamic Center of Eastside was badly damaged by a fire that was intentionally set during the early morning hours of January. A man, believed to have mental illness, was arrested on the scene. From what I've been told by members of the Islamic Center, he was well known to some members of the mosque and had asked for and received food and financial help from them in the past. But he was unstable. Hopefully, this individual will now get the medical help he needs.



A firefighter battles the Islamic Center of Eastside blaze.

Just a few days before the fire, there had been an Eastside Muslim Safety Forum held at the Muslim Association of Puget Sound center in Redmond. The police chiefs from Bellevue, Mercer Island, Issaquah, Redmond, Sammamish and Kirkland along with many other officers from those and other police forces contributed to the conversation. Some of the issues covered were: crime prevention, personal and property protection, Washington state hate crime laws, and what to do in a shooting situation. Over 100 people attended, and the evening was nothing less than inspirational. I hope other community groups will organize similar forums because the advice presented can be applied universally.

Fortunately, no one was injured in the fire. Out of tragedy comes opportunity. Opportunity for the different communities and religions to work together. Opportunity to build a new mosque that has been needed for some time. Opportunity for our city to show that diversity REALLY is our strength.

So far, at the time of this writing, we seem to be moving in the right direction. On Sunday, the day after the fire, a community meeting was held at Sammamish High School to show our support for our Muslim neighbors. With only a few hours' notice, over 500 people attended including city staff, religious leaders from many different faiths, members of the Bellevue City Council and the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC), board members of the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association, and many concerned citizens.

Hopefully, this will translate into action and the spirit of love will continue. Over \$250,000 was donated to the mosque within days of the fire.

To contribute to the mosque's recovery, financially or otherwise, please go to the Islamic Center of Eastside website – www.eastsidemosque.com.

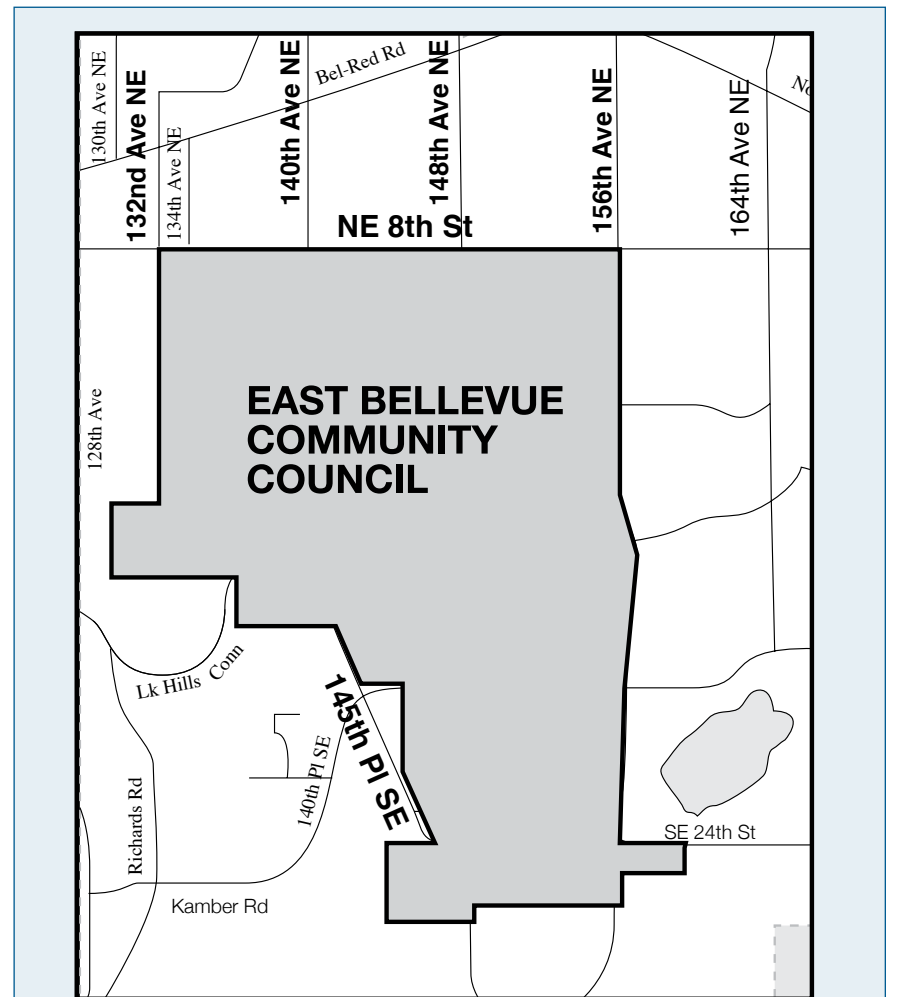
The congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints has opened their hearts and church facilities to allow the mosque members to practice their daily prayers. This is another indication of community support. At this time, the mosque still needs a building to conduct their pre-kindergarten classes that are greatly missed by the children.

It is important that a new building be constructed as quickly as possible. This could entail the city's help through expediting the permit and approval process in a time when there are numerous projects being planned in our city.

For several years, members of the EBCC has been actively working with the ICOE. Members of the ICOE have completed the Bellevue Essentials program through the City of Bellevue and are currently taking the Eastside Leadership course.

With help from the EBCC and led by the effort of Mohammed Bakr, ICOE members have organized several "Meet Your Muslim Neighbors" programs on Saturday mornings at the mosque to help bring us all together as a community. We are planning to have more in the future, probably at local churches until the new mosque is completed. All are welcome. Understanding each other is essential to maintain a safe and peaceful city and to promote the family values to which we all aspire.

EBCC meetings are held every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm Boys & Girls Clubhouse on Lake Hills Boulevard. All are welcome, and we encourage your thoughts and ideas to enable us to improve our community.



For more information about the East Bellevue Community Council, call Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts, 425-452-6806.

East Bellevue Community Council meets the first Tuesday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Members: Gerald Hughes, Ross Gooding, Steven Kasner, Betsi Hummer, William Capron

We welcome comments about the East Bellevue area. You can share your views with the Community Council via e-mail at EBCC@bellevuewa.gov. To find out more about the agendas and decisions of EBCC go to the website, bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm.

Eastside volunteer guide



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer Opportunities in Bellevue

By Julie Ellenhorn, Neighborhood Outreach

For the first time in 10 years, a comprehensive guide of volunteer opportunities on the Eastside has been published. In December, alumni from the Bellevue Essentials program compiled a list of over 50 local agencies seeking volunteers. The guide, organized by topic, can be accessed online at www.bellevuewa.gov/volunteering.htm.

The guide includes a variety of organizations, with many different causes and opportunities for volunteers. Residents are already finding the guide useful.

"This is a great resource!" noted Adam Mihlstin of the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club. "Thanks for taking the time to compile all the information. I've distributed the guide to the different committees in my club as a handy resource to identify volunteer and philanthropic opportunities."

A Newport Hills resident commented, "This sounds like what I've been looking for. I've been looking for volunteer opportunities here in Bellevue."

Volunteering in the community provides a chance to make a difference and give back in a meaningful way, while learning about new experiences and connecting with others.

Bellevue Essentials is the city's 10-week civic engagement class, held each fall. For more information on Bellevue Essentials or for a printed copy of the volunteer guide, contact Julie Ellenhorn at jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-5372.



Citywide Projects Update

Throughout the city, there are many projects in various stages of development. This update includes all projects with an estimated budget of \$250,000 or more, sorted by neighborhood. If you have questions, please contact the project manager.

Bridle Trails

Pikes Peak Reservoir and Pump Station Replacement: Replacing Pikes Peak 1-million gallon steel reservoir with 1.25-million gallon reservoir and replacing existing pump station. Public outreach and alternatives analysis in progress. Design and permitting est. 2017/2018, construction est. 2019/2020. \$5.7 million. Jay Hummel, Jhummel@bellevuewa.gov

BelRed

Mid Lakes Pump Station Capacity Improvements: Replacing pump station for growing BelRed area. Construction: TBD. \$4 million (est.) In design. Vanaja S. Rajah, Vrajah@bellevuewa.gov

120th Ave NE: NE 7th St - NE 12th St (Stage 2): Widening roadway to five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, sidewalks and utility work. Construction through summer 2017. \$40 million. bellevuewa.gov/4th-and-120th-NE-corridor.htm Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

120th Ave NE: NE 12th - NE 16th (Stage 3): Widening roadway to five lanes with bike lanes, landscaping, sidewalks and utility work. Construction through Dec. 2017. Road closed through Apr. 2017. \$26 million. bellevuewa.gov/4th-and-120th-NE-corridor.htm Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

NE Spring Blvd: 116th to 120th Ave NE (Zone 1): Widening NE 12th St to five lanes from 116th Ave NE to a new intersection at NE Spring Blvd (Zone 1A). From NE 12th St to 120th: new four-lane roadway, a multipurpose path along the north side, and two bridges over the East Link light rail alignment (Zone 1B). Zone 1B construction will be finished October 2018, Zone 1A anticipated to start construction in 2018. \$36.5 million. bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

NE Spring Blvd: 120th to 124th Aves NE (Zone 2): 100% design for a new four-lane roadway, outside lanes for shared non-motorized use, landscaping, sidewalks and on-street parking. \$3.4 million. bellevuewa.gov/spring-boulevard.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

124th Ave NE: NE Spring Blvd to Ichigo Way: Widening 124th Ave NE to five lanes. 100% design. Construction fall 2017 (Pending ROW acquisition). \$20.6 million (est.) Marina Arakelyan, Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown

Downtown Park - Complete the Circle & Inspiration Playground: Completing the circle promenade and canal, expanding the parking lot off of 100th Ave NE and building a new universally accessible playground. Under construction until July 2017. \$17.1 million. bellevuewa.gov/downtown-park-complete-circle.htm Ken Kroeger, Kkroeger@bellevuewa.gov

Downtown Transportation Plan Projects: Replacing brick pavers and street trees, and improving lighting along the north sidewalk of the Transit Center. Creating a raised intersection on 106th Ave NE at NE 6th St. Installing crosswalks at 100th Ave NE and NE 1st St and 102nd Ave NE and NE 1st St, as part of the Downtown Park improvements. Improving curb ramps and installing short sections of bike lanes east of Bellevue Way on Main Street. bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm Kevin McDonald, Kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov

Meydenbauer Basin NE 8th & 100th: This project will design and construct stormwater conveyance improvements on 100th Ave NE and NE 4th St to reduce or eliminate local flooding. Design 2017; Construction 2018. \$2.3 million James B. Nicolls, JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov

Eastgate

Bellevue Airfield Park: Designing and permitting Phase 1 of this new park's master plan, anticipated to include a sports field, trails, playground, parking and landfill infrastructure. Phase 1 design. \$1.6 million bellevuewa.gov/airfield-park-master-plan.htm Pam Fehrman, Pfehman@bellevuewa.gov

Horizon View #3 Water Booster Pump Station Rehabilitation: Installing new pumps and standby generator. Construction underway. \$1.2 – 1.45 million. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Horizon View #1 Reservoir and Water Booster Pump Station: Installing new reservoir and pump station. Construction underway. \$3.2 million. James B. Nicolls, JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov

Cougar Mountain #3 Pump Station Rehabilitation or Replacement: Construction 2017. \$1.3 million James B. Nicolls, JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov

SE Newport Way Improvements: 150th Ave SE to Somerset Blvd: In a design alternatives analysis for roadway and pedestrian/ bicycle improvements. \$8.1 million. Paul Krawczyk, Pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

Factoria

Factoria Blvd Storm Conveyance Improvements: Improving storm water conveyance system along Factoria Blvd between SE 38th St and Richards Creek inlet. \$2 million (est.). In design. Construction late 2017. Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov

Lake Hills

148th Ave – Main St to SE 8 St Signal Upgrade and Overlay: Replacing the existing traffic signals at 148 Ave and Main St and 148 Ave SE at SE 8 St. Final paving in spring 2017. \$1.9 million. Chris Masek, cmasek@bellevuewa.gov

Newport Hills

Lake Heights Wastewater Pump Station: Rehabilitating wastewater pumping station to meet current standards. In design and preparing for permitting. Construction 2016/2017. \$750,000 (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Newport

Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction Project: Replacing five culverts and two outfalls in the area of Newport Shores. One culvert in design, with construction 2017. First culvert cost: \$1.7 million (est.) Debbie Harris, dharris@bellevuewa.gov

Northeast Bellevue

Northup Way Connection to the SR 520 Trail: Adding bike lanes and sidewalks from NE 24th St to NE 33rd Place to connect the SR 520 trail with the new regional trail at 108th Ave NE. Construction completion in 2017. \$12.8 million. bellevuewa.gov/northup-corridor-pedbike.htm Steve Costa, Scosta@bellevuewa.gov

Eastside Rail Corridor Interim Trail: King County project to will construct interim (gravel) trail from 108th Ave NE (near the South Kirkland P& R) to SR 520. Construction 2017. Mike Ingram, Mingram@bellevuewa.gov

Northwest Bellevue

Meydenbauer Bay Park - Phase 1: Implementing Master Plan, including park expansion west of 99th Ave NE. Construction 2017. \$17 million bellevuewa.gov/meydenbauer-park-projects.htm Scott VanderHyden, Svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov

Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation: Rehabilitating the existing sewer system. In design; construction winter 2016/2017. \$720,000 (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Vuecrest Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Replacement: Replacing existing sewer system. A section of AC water main included. Design; Construction spring/summer 2017. \$1.3 million (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Somerset/Sunset

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – Factoria Blvd SE to 150th Ave SE: Designing new 12' wide trail from Factoria Blvd SE to the vicinity of 150th Ave SE. Includes crosswalks, landscaping, lighting, and urban design. Design complete in spring 2017. \$1.2 million for design only. bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm Chris Masek, Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail – I-405 to 132nd Ave SE: Designing new 12' wide trail from I-405 to the vicinity of 132nd Ave SE. Includes bridge crossings, landscaping, lighting, and urban design. Design complete in spring 2017. \$1.2 million for design only. bellevuewa.gov/mts-greenway-trail.htm Chris Masek, Cmasek@bellevuewa.gov
Somerset Reservoir No. 1 Pressure Reducing Station (PRV) Relocation: Relocating the existing PRV out of the existing reservoir. In design; construction fall 2016. \$100,000 (est.). Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

West Bellevue

Meydenbauer Bay Park Sewer Line Replacement: Constructing 1,500 linear feet (approx.) of sewer line along the shore of Lake Washington. Being coordinated with the future Meydenbauer Bay Park project. Construction Dec 2016 - May 2017. \$3 million. Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov
Sewer Lake Line Condition Assessment, Phase 2—Lake Washington: Assessing condition of 14 miles of buried sewer pipe from Yarrow Point to Renton. 2016. \$533,594. Debbie Harris, Dharris@bellevuewa.gov
Surrey Downs Park Development: Design and permitting of Surrey Downs Park 2015-2016. \$7 million. bellevuewa.gov/surrey_downs_master_plan.htm Scott VanderHyden, svanderhyden@bellevuewa.gov
Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane: Conducting a design alternative analysis for a southbound inside high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and an outside shoulder or sidewalk from the Bellevue Way/112th Ave SE "Y" to the South Bellevue P & R main entrance. In pre-design. \$4.4 million. Marina Arakelyan, Marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov
Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2016: Repairing sewer defects in the area. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov

Wilburton

NE 8th Street Culvert Replacement at Kelsey Creek: This project will replace the existing culvert constructed in the 1980's with a new fish passable culvert. Design 2017; Construction 2018. \$3.2 million. James B. Nicolls, JBNicolls@bellevuewa.gov
--

Woodridge

Woodridge Open Space Sewer Pipeline Replacement: Replacing 1,500 feet of sewer pipeline. Construction 2017. \$1.2 million. Birol Shaha, Bshaha@bellevuewa.gov
Sanitary Sewer Repairs 2015, Phase 1: Repairing existing sewer system in advance of street paving projects throughout the city. Construction 2016. \$1.2 million (est.) Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
Kelsey Creek Glendale Country Club 8th Tee Assessment: Evaluating recently constructed fish passage improvements and impacts to 8th tee channel stability. Stephen Noeske, Snoeske@bellevuewa.gov
Richards Road Inlet Modifications: Replace an aging Inlet station with meter, pressure reducer valve, telemetry, and vault along Richards Road at SE 26th St. In construction, will start early 2017. \$563,000. Abe Santos, asantos@bellevuewa.gov

Various Locations

East Link Light Rail: Construction is underway to complete approximately ½ mile of mined light rail transit tunnel from Main St to NE 6th St. South Bellevue segment construction began in January 2017. Construction Alerts: soundtransit.org/subscribe . Marie Jensen, mjensen@bellevuewa.gov
AC Water Main: Replacing 1.5-1.6 miles of aging asbestos cement water main with ductile iron pipe. 2016 Phase 2 In construction- \$2.1 million; 2016 Phase 3 In construction - \$2.5 million; 2017 Phase 1 In design \$2.1 million (est.). Abe Santos, Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
PRV Rehabilitation and Replacement 2016: Replacing aging pressure reducing valve stations to regulate water pressure in various neighborhoods. In construction, \$385,000 Abe Santos, Asantos@bellevuewa.gov
SCATS Traffic Adaptive Signals: Monitoring traffic entering intersections and adjusting signal timing in real time. Four signals left to be converted in 2017. Fred Liang, Fliang@bellevuewa.gov

East Link construction coming soon to South Bellevue

By Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach

Plan ahead—don't wait to try out an alternate commute once the South Bellevue Park and Ride closes.

The closure of the South Bellevue Park and Ride will be one of the initial – and most notable activities associated with the start of construction of the South Bellevue segment of East Link light rail. Sound Transit's contractor is finalizing its construction schedule, which will detail the timing of the closure and other construction activities.

Sound Transit will initiate extensive outreach when the closure date is set. The best way for Bellevue residents, businesses, commuters and visitors to learn about the closure is to subscribe to East Link Construction Alerts at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe.

In November, five new leased lots opened and two existing lots were expanded. Visit www.soundtransit.org/eastlink and click on "Park and Ride travel options during East Link construction" for scheduling, trip planning and alternate parking lot information.

For those considering using alternative transit (e.g. ridesharing) for the first time, Sound Transit and King County Metro offer commute planning support. Visit www.Metro.Kingcounty.gov and click on "Rideshare" for more information.

Sound Transit will host a "Meet the



Tunnel excavation at the south portal (Main Street/112th Avenue Southeast) began in late January and will be going 24/7 as the sequential excavation method of tunneling requires a constant operation.

Contractor" open house prior to start of construction, where construction scheduling and other areas of concern can be addressed.

The South Bellevue East Link Station will be at the current South Bellevue Park and Ride site. The station will include bus and paratransit facilities, public art and space for passenger drop-off. The new garage will offer approximately 1,500 parking stalls, nearly tripling today's parking capacity.

The South Bellevue Park and Ride site

will serve as the construction hub for staging equipment and building the light rail station, track and new parking garage. The park and ride will close for up to five years as the site becomes an active construction zone. Sound Transit and the city seek to minimize the length of the closure as called for in the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies.

Staff from city departments are coordinating the review, issuance and inspection of many city-issued permits that require traffic control and allow for road closures, and approve the construction of buildings and infrastructure.

If there is spillover parking once the park and ride is closed, the city may establish a residential parking zone approximately one-half mile from the park and ride. The parking zone would be implemented if supported by the community. Additionally, the Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee continues to consider traffic mitigation tools that would lessen commuter traffic in Bellecrest, Surrey Downs, Enatai and Beaux Arts Village. Traffic data has been and will continue to be collected to help the committee better understand traffic patterns (vehicle volumes and turning movements) before and during East Link construction on Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue Southeast.



Community Calendar

“Clash Encounters of Bears and Wolves”

Feb. 24, 5-6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Wildlife documentary captures predators battling.
Free. Please RSVP: mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565

Gardening with your Children: Plan and Prepare Your Garden

Feb. 24, 10-11 a.m.
Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station
15416 SE 16th St.
All ages welcome. \$2. Preregistration required: <http://parksreg.bellevuewa.gov>, course 112721.
425-452-6993

Mercer Slough Adult Ranger Walk

Feb. 26, 2-3:30 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Free. Please RSVP: mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Lewis Creek Ranger Hike

March 4, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Free. 425-452-4195

March Mania Plant Sale

March 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Featuring unique specialty plants and spring ephemerals.
Family event with children's corner.
www.northwestperennialalliance.org

Lakemont Highlands Open Space Ranger Hike

March 12, 10 a.m.-noon
Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
Free. 425-452-4195

Family-Friendly Ranger Walk

March 12, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Free. Please RSVP: mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

“The Ugly Duckling”

March 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7 p.m.;
March 19, 25 and 26 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Cost: \$12-15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Hiking History: From Glaciers to Greenways

March 18, 2-3 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Free. Please RSVP: mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565

“Beavers: The Biggest Dam Movie You Ever Saw”

March 24, 5-6 p.m.
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
1625 118th Ave. SE
Acclaimed documentary offers intimate look at a beaver family.
Free. Please RSVP: mseec@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-2565.

Garden Workshops and Lectures

Aaron Education Center
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
March 4: Permaculture for the Backyard Gardener, 10 a.m.-noon
March 15: Beautifying Your Garden, 7 p.m.
March 25: An Introduction to the Art and Horticulture of Bonsai 10 a.m.-noon
March 30: Garden Habitat for Bumble Bees and Other Native Pollinators 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Workshops provided in conjunction with various partners. Prices vary.
www.bellevuebotanical.org/classes.html

Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing

April 29, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Kelsey Creek Farm
410 130th Pl. SE
Sheep are shorn of their winter coats, spinning demonstrations, children's crafts, tractor rides, pony rides and food. Free admission.
Costs vary for food and activities. No ATM on site, no charge cards accepted.
425-452-7688 or kelseycreekfarm@bellevuewa.gov

Mother's Day Social

May 14, 1-4 p.m.
Bellevue Botanical Garden
12001 Main St.
Free and open to all. Donations welcome.
425-452-2750 or www.bellevuebotanical.org

Under Our Skin: What Do We Mean When We Talk About Race?

Better Together Presentation
May 31, 6:30-8 p.m.
City Hall Council Chamber
450 110th Ave. NE
The Seattle Times “Under Our Skin” video project around race and inclusiveness, with facilitated discussion.
Registration required. Contact neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.

Spring/Summer Day Camps Registration

Register now for winter, spring and summer day camps.
425-452-6885 or parksreg.bellevuewa.gov

Spring and Summer Recreation Programs Registration

(May through August)
March 27— Resident registration begins
April 5 —Non-resident registration begins
425-452-6885 or parksreg.bellevuewa.gov

Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm and Cha Family Farms

Lake Hills Greenbelt, 2 locations:
700 148 Ave. SE and 156th Ave SE/ SE 16th St.
Hours vary 425-260-2266

2017 Picnic Shelter Reservations

Planning a special occasion or casual summer gathering at one of Bellevue's beautiful parks? Picnic shelters are now available for reservation. For more information, call 425-452-6914



Volunteers are briefed on planting technique at Arbor Day-Earth Day.

Civil Disagreement

Better Together Presentation
March 29, 6:30-8 p.m.
City Hall Council Chamber
450 110th Ave. NE
David Smith of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Washington teaches ways to have meaningful, civil conversations when we disagree, with facilitated discussion.
Registration required. Contact neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.

“The Little Mermaid”

March 31, April 1, 7 and 8 at 7 p.m.; April 2, 8 and 9 at 2 p.m.
Bellevue Youth Theatre
16051 NE 10th St.
Splashy retelling of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen story.
Cost: \$12-15 per ticket.
425-452-7155 or byt@bellevuewa.gov

Arbor Day-Earth Day

April 22, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Community celebration, 11:30 a.m.
Lewis Creek Park
5808 Lakemont Blvd. SE
425-452-4195 or parks_stewardship@bellevuewa.gov

Exploring Cross-Cultural Communications

Better Together Presentation
April 26, 6:30-8 p.m.
City Hall Council Chamber
450 110th Ave. NE
Mediation Manager Marcia McReynolds introduces the skills required to effectively communicate and create connections across culture, with facilitated discussion.
Registration required. Contact neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.



www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington
twitter.com/bellevuewa

REMEMBER
to license
your pet



City Contact Information

City Hall

450 110th Ave. NE/P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Service First (general information): 452-6800

City of Bellevue website: bellevuewa.gov

City Council Office: 452-7810

City Council Meetings

1st and 3rd Mondays each month: study session 6-8 p.m., regular session 8-10 p.m.
2nd and 4th Mondays each month: extended study session 6-10 p.m.

East Bellevue Community Council Meetings

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.
Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Board & Commission Meetings

Call 452-6466 for meeting locations/agendas

Arts: 1st Tuesday, 4 p.m.

Civil Service: 2nd Tuesday, 4 p.m., Jan., Mar., July, Oct.

Environmental Services: 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Human Services: 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Library Board: 3rd Tuesday, 5 p.m.

Network On Aging: 1st Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Community Services Board: 2nd Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Planning: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation: 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Youth Link Board: 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

City Offices (all city phone numbers use the 425 area code)

City Clerk's Office and Public Records: 452-6464

City Manager: 452-7228

East Bellevue Community Council: 452-6466

Crossroads Mini City Hall: 452-2800

Development Services: 452-6800

New permit applications: 452-4898

Inspection requests, application and inspection status, pay fees: 452-6875

Simple permits, inspection requests: MyBuildingPermit.com

Application and inspection status: MyBuildingPermit.com

Code Compliance: 452-4570

East Bellevue Community Council: 1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.

Fire & Emergency Medical

Emergency Only: 911

Business and Information: 452-6892

Inspection/Fire prevention: 452-6872

Human Resources: 452-6838

Job Line: 452-7822 or bellevuewa.gov

Information Technology: 452-4626

Neighborhood Mediation Program: 452-4091

Neighborhood Outreach: 452-6836

Parks & Community Services

Aging Services: 452-4200

Recreation Program Registration/Parks Info: 452-6885

Youth Sports: 452-6885

Ballfield Rental: 452-6914

Picnics/Facility Rentals: 452-6914

Park Maintenance: 452-6855

Human Services: 452-6884

Cultural Diversity: 452-7886

Probation: 452-6956

Community Centers:

Crossroads Community Center: 452-4874

Highland Community Center: 452-7686

North Bellevue Community Center: 452-7681

South Bellevue Community Center: 452-4240

Marina Hotline: 452-4883

Planning & Community Development: 452-7892

Police

Crossroads Station: 452-2891

Factoria Station: 452-2880

Emergency Only: 911

Complaints and Information: 452-6917

Crime Prevention: Commercial 452-2979; Residential 452-6915

Traffic Safety/Enforcement: 452-7658

Transportation

Administration/Information: 452-6856

Utilities

Administration/Information: 452-6932

Billing/Customer Service: 452-6973

Water, Sewer, Street, & Surface Water Maintenance and Emergency: 452-7840

Volunteering: 452-5375

Other Numbers (Not city government)

King County Animal Control: 206-296-PETS

Allied Waste/Rabanco: 425-452-4762 (recycling, yard debris, garbage)

Metro Transit/Sound Transit: 206-553-3000

bellevuewa.gov/itsyourcity.htm

Bellevue City Council



John Stokes
Mayor



John Chelminiak
Deputy Mayor



Conrad Lee



Jennifer Robertson



Lynne Robinson



Kevin Wallace

As always, Kelsey Creek Farm sheep event is 'shear' delight



By Christina Faine, Parks Public Information Officer

As they've been doing every spring since the '80s, visitors will "flock" to Kelsey Creek Farm on April 29 to watch the sheep sheared of a year's growth of wool.

From 11 a.m.-4 p.m., the annual sheep shearing event will include animal viewing, log cabin heritage activities, dog herding demonstrations, tractor-pulled wagon rides and bee education displays, all free. Pony rides are available for a cost. For cash only, food can be purchased.

When the annual sheep shearing at Kelsey Creek started drawing crowds in the early '80s, the spring ritual was turned into a community gathering. The event has continued to grow in popularity since those early days, and has become one of the community's best-loved family events. People return year after year, and come from all around the Puget Sound area.

The sheep shearing itself remains the primary draw. This year, we will again have two shearers on hand at the event. Amy Wolfe, a noted shearer and sheep judge, is well-known in the 4-H and sheep community. Al Schweider, a talented local shearer, will share the task of shearing with Amy.

Veteran shearer Doug Davies will co-host the event on stage, along with Kelsey Creek Farm staff member Tamar White. Doug will explain the shearing process and share shearing stories from personal experience. Tamar will describe the processes of taking the wool from fleece to sweater, and will field questions from the audience.

There is little parking available at Kelsey Creek Farm, but you can park free at the Wilburton Park and Ride (720 114th Ave. SE) and Bannerwood Sports Park, 1630 132nd Ave. SE), then take shuttles to Kelsey Creek Park. Shuttle service begins at 10:45 a.m., with the last departure from parking lots to the event at 2:30 p.m. The last shuttle from Kelsey Creek Farm to the shuttle parking lots leaves at 4:15.

Kelsey Creek Farm does not have an ATM on-site. No pets are allowed in the barnyard area, on shuttle buses or left unattended anywhere in the park. All pets must on a leash at all times.

Parks & Community Services hosts the event, in partnership with the Northwest Vintage Iron Tractor Club, the Northwest Regional Spinners Association, Brian Ricards Sheep Dog Herding, Kelsey Creek Critters 4-H, Chelsey Farms Alpacas and the Eastside Heritage Center. Local high school volunteers help make it happen.

Bellevue IT'S YOUR CITY

It's Your City is published for people who live or work in Bellevue. For questions or comments about this publication, contact Claude Iosso, 425-452-4448 or ciosso@bellevuewa.gov

Editor: Claude Iosso

City Manager: Brad Miyake



It's Your City is printed on recycled paper.
Please recycle.

Chief Communications Officer:

Lenka Wright

Graphics: Ted Van Dyken/
Solvita Upenieks

Contributors: Tresa Berg, Karin Roberts